

Non Altemptum



Daniel Rarand
Charleston, S.C.
1896

Cr. 257-1.56 D

Chamber of Commerce.

A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the Mills House on Wednesday, the 31st ultimo. H. W. Conner, Esq., President of the Chamber, gave notice of his intention to resign his office at the close of the present term, which announcement was received with regret by the members. The following preamble and resolutions were submitted by Henry Gourdin, Esq., and adopted.

Whereas, a Company is about to be established, to be called the North and South American Steamship Company, for the purpose of running a line of steamships between the city of New York and Para, at the mouth of the Amazon, touching at Savannah, Bermuda, St. Thomas, Barbadoes, Demarara, and Cayenne; the stock of the said company being owned in the cities of New York and Savannah, and the said Company having applied to the Congress of the United States for an appropriation for the transportation of the mail from and to the United States by the said steamers; and whereas, in the opinion of the Chamber, such a line of steamers cannot be otherwise than beneficial to the trade of the whole country, and to the South more especially, by making the city of Savannah the last point of departure from, and the first of arrival in, the United States, therefore,

Resolved, That this Chamber respectfully recommend the application of the North and South American Steamship Company to the favorable consideration and support of the delegation of the State of South Carolina in the Congress of the United States.

Resolved, That the President of the Chamber be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.



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In Memoriam.



HENRY W. CONNER,

BORN MARCH 4TH, 1797,

DIED JANUARY 11TH, 1861.

[FROM THE CHARLESTON MERCURY, JANUARY 14, 1861.]

THE LATE HON. HENRY WORKMAN CONNER.

The funeral services of the late H. W. CONNER, Esq., took place yesterday at St. Michael's Church, and were numerously attended, not only by the personal friends, to whom his death was a private affliction, but a large assemblage of our most distinguished citizens bore equal testimony, by their presence, to the public loss. Few men possessed higher qualifications for the public service, especially in times of general alarm or distress. He was vigilant, brave, energetic, and of indomitable perseverance. Devoting himself early in life to commercial pursuits, these qualities still found even in them a wide field for their exercise, and contributed largely to his success. To his forecast, energy and perseverance the City of Charleston is mainly indebted for the noble piles of buildings in Hayne and Meeting streets, of which the Charleston Hotel is the centre and chief ornament. Though in the heart of the city, nearly the whole of this space devastated by fire, remained unimproved, a barren waste in the midst of a populous city, until rescued by his genius and energy, and converted into the most valuable portion of our real estate. This was accomplished in the face of no ordinary difficulties. That noble building, the Charleston Hotel, had scarcely been

completed and was yet unoccupied, when a desolating conflagration swept over the city and reduced it to ashes. That it afterwards rose again from its smouldering foundations to fulfil the purposes of commercial usefulness for which it had been originally designed, has always been attributed to the extraordinary energy and perseverance of Mr. CONNER. And those who contemplate merely these material structures, much as they contribute to adorn our city, and largely as they advanced the reputation of those who shared in the labor and cost of their erection, form but an imperfect notion of their value. At the time these immense warehouses and stores were erected, the trade of Charleston required no such accommodation; nearly the whole jobbing trade of the South was then carried on in New York. And, combined with the erection of these buildings, was the patriotic design of attracting to Charleston a portion of this valuable business. It would not comport with the limits of this brief memoir to relate all the measures that were necessary to accomplish this purpose. Mr. CONNER devoted all his energies to this end, and, sustained by the efforts of worthy associates, soon saw the complete realization of their most sanguine hopes. The jobbing trade of the city increased, in a few years, from three millions to upwards of fifteen millions of dollars in annual value. One of the chief instruments in effecting this great public benefit was the Bank of Charleston. This institution was chartered in 1835, to take the place of the Branch of the Bank of the United States in this city. Mr. CONNER was one of its founders, and had a seat at the first Board of Directors elected.

He was one of those who voted in the affirmative on the proposition to refuse the bills of the Bank of the United States at the counter of the Bank—a measure that caused a great sensation, but the wisdom of which was soon revealed; the bills were entirely driven out of circulation in South Carolina, and the community saved from an immense loss when the failure of that Bank took place. The mode in which the Bank of Charleston contributed to the great object we have described, was by establishing agencies at every inland town of importance in this State, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. This enabled the Bank to discount the notes of the merchants of all those States and send them for collection to their place of residence, a business which had never before been done in Charleston, and that gave a powerful stimulus to the jobbing trade of the city. In the inauguration and permanent establishment of these measures of public usefulness that have conduced so largely to the prosperity of Charleston, Mr. CONNER always contributed largely by his intelligence, information and energetic personal labors. In 1841, he became President of the Bank, to which he was called by the choice of his colleagues at the Board expressed in a manner the most complimentary. And we are sure that we do but simple justice to his memory in saying that, under his administration, this institution established throughout the whole of this country, and in those parts of Europe with which we have commercial relations, the highest reputation for the ability, energy and prudence with which its extended transactions were conducted. The benefits derived from

its business by the stockholders were commensurate with those conferred upon the public, and Mr. COXNER received, both in public and private, from the stockholders, many expressions of confidence, and of the grateful sense they entertained of his zeal and devotion to their service. The finances of the country passed through many stormy periods during his administration, in all of which the affairs of the Bank were conducted with an ability that contributed still further to elevate and confirm its reputation. He filled this important office for a period of nine years, when the public voice called him to the Presidency of the South Carolina Railroad Company. This great work was beginning to exercise a powerful influence on the fortunes of our city, and the jealous opposition of Georgia to those connections with the railroads of that State, upon which the full efficiency of the South Carolina road depended, was a subject of great public anxiety. Mr. COXNER entered upon the discharge of his new duties with all his accustomed energy, and in a very short time the inclined plane at Aiken was swept away, and the Savannah river bridged, and a depot established in the City of Augusta. His devotion to duty, his perseverance under difficulties and reverses, his self-sacrificing spirit, and great public zeal, were rendered still more conspicuous in this new situation, and he retired from it in 1853, with the high reputation he had brought from the Bank of Charleston exalted and confirmed in the public estimation. He withdrew from this public station for the purpose of establishing Banking Houses in Charleston and New Orleans. In this new business he realized the advan-

tages of that high reputation he had established for financial skill and commercial honor, and enjoyed the unlimited confidence of a wide circle of friends in all parts of the country.

We ought not, perhaps, to omit a circumstance that delicacy might forbid us from relating of the living. Commercial affairs are full of vicissitudes, and Mr. CONNER, in early life, had met with reverses; but more than twenty years after, though legally and honorably discharged from the debts of that period, he came forward voluntarily and discharged them in full. A circumstance so honorable to his character, and so worthy of applause and imitation, we do not feel justified in passing it over in silence.

We offer this feeble and imperfect tribute to his memory, and bear our sorrowing testimony to the sense entertained by our community of the loss they have sustained by his death. The very first call that the State made upon her sons, on the election of Lincoln, brought letters from him full of patriotic expressions of entire devotion to her cause. He flew to her side at the call for a Convention, and the last official act of his life, was that in which, as a member of that illustrious body, his signature was affixed to the Ordinance by which she has been emancipated from political bondage. Almost his last thoughts were devoted to his country; the last lines he wrote, addressed to a friend from his sick bed, were these: "What is it about Fort Sumter? If anything is to be done send for me, and I will go, upon a litter, if needs be."

At a large assemblage of the Wholesale Merchants of the City of Charleston, on Saturday, the 12th instant, Mr. F. D. Fanning was called to the Chair, and Messrs. T. M. Horsey and S. J. Hull requested to act as Secretaries.

On taking the Chair, Mr. Fanning, in a few remarks, stated the object of the meeting, which was to offer some testimony of respect to the memory of one of our most valued citizens, HENRY W. CONNER, Esq. In the course of his remarks, he alluded to the fact that Hayne street would always be a monument of Mr. CONNER's energy, it having been, in a measure, through his exertions that business was established in that neighborhood.

Mr. W. S. Hastie then offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That we feel deeply the loss of our esteemed fellow-citizen, the late HENRY W. CONNER, and sincerely sympathize with his afflicted family in their bereavement, which cannot be viewed in any other light than a great public loss. As a merchant, and in all the positions to which he has been called by the partiality of his fellow-citizens, he always maintained a character for unbending integrity and honor, worthy of our highest imitation.

Resolved, That in token of our deep-felt sorrow, the Palmetto Flag, which flag it was the last act of our friend's life to assist in inaugurating, be lowered on the Hayne and Meeting street staff to half-mast.

On motion of Mr. Geo. Williams, it was

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be sent to the family of the deceased, and that they be published in the daily journals of this city.

On motion of Mr. T. R. Eggleston, the meeting adjourned.

F. D. FANNING, *Chairman*.

THOS. M. HORSEY, }
SAMUEL J. HULL, } *Secretaries*.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on Monday, 14th instant, at one, P. M., in the Directors' hall of the Bank of Charleston.

There was a good attendance of the leading members. The object of this special meeting is so well indicated in the remarks of the President, that we need but refer to his opening Address, which was pronounced and received with sad and feeling emphasis and earnestness.

President A. O. Andrews, in explaining the object of the call, said :

Gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce :

We come together to-day under circumstances full of sadness. While every mind and heart is absorbed in the gravity of those public transactions which are making every moment history, we are drawn aside by one of those painful dispensations which teach the sovereignty of a Power that none can question—the Sovereignty of God.

The august council of the State has but just paused in its deliberations—does it not seem as though in becoming reverence before the majesty of Death?

We, in our humbler relations, gather with each other to commingle our griefs, and to acknowledge, in the death of HENRY W. CONNER, the removal of a loved associate, the loss of an honored Ex-Presi-

dent—the extinguishment of a form and presence long and endearingly familiar to us all.

The strong and decided features which marked the character of our deceased friend, could not fail to make their impress wherever his relations were cast; and, accordingly, we find his name and services conspicuously associated, throughout his life, with the history of financial, commercial and industrial progress, not only in this, the city of his affections, but wherever the fortunes of Charleston were to be advanced, and especially in promoting her inter-connection with her Southern sisters.

Buoyant and enthusiastic in his temperament, of an iron will, and with a not unjust confidence in his own resources, the mountains which loomed up in other men's way, presented no frightful proportions to him. They only brought out the vigor of his arm, and gave a field for its healthful exercise. Prompt, resolute, energetic, full of courage, and of good cheer, he went to his allotted work, and whatsoever his hand found to do, that he did with all his might. Hence the readiness of his associates to rally around him as a leader, and the inspiration of success which he transfused through all his coadjutors. Nor was the firm hold which he possessed over his fellows, due only to those qualities which strike the outward eye.

It was fastened deep and strong, by the organizing, systematizing mind, which he displayed in interior council.

While those of maturer years hailed him as a most efficient auxiliary, the young, especially, delighted to work with him. There was so much heartiness

in his nature. His feelings were as fresh as those of a boy; and as with the influence of music, he brought the quick and generous impulses of younger natures into instant accord with his own.

When such a man, gentlemen, is stricken from his appointed sphere, the whole circle of his relations quivers with the shock.

It is our sad privilege to pour out with each other our sympathies, let us not forget that it is also our high duty, we who yet remain, to endeavor to exhibit in ourselves whatever was excellent in our departed friend!

J. K. Sass, Esq., President of the Bank of Charleston, offered resolutions in behalf of G. A. Trenholm, Esq., who was prevented by indisposition from performing in person this mournful rite of friendship and sorrowing regard.

These resolutions are as follows:

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God in the dispensation of his inscrutable Providence, to remove from the sphere of his earthly usefulness that distinguished citizen, HENRY W. CONNER, Esq., and the Chamber of Commerce of Charleston, of which he was a member, and, at one time, the President, regard it both as a duty and a privilege to give public expression to their sentiments on this mournful occurrence. Therefore,

Resolved, As the unanimous sense of the Chamber of Commerce of Charleston, that HENRY W. CONNER, Esq., contributed largely to the commercial prosperity and reputation of the City of Charleston, by his enterprise and public spirit when engaged in commercial pursuits in this city.

Resolved, That as President of the Bank of Charleston, and as President of the South Carolina Railroad Company, he greatly promoted, by his talents and energy, the general welfare of the community.

Resolved, That on all public occasions, and more especially in recently leaving his business in New Orleans, to share the fortunes of the State in the present crisis, he evinced his loyalty to South Carolina, and merited the confidence and applause he received from his fellow-citizens.

Resolved, That the Chamber of Commerce sincerely lament his death as a great public calamity, and sympathize deeply with his bereaved family in their affliction.

Resolved, That the members of the Chamber do wear the usual badge of mourning in testimony of their respect for his memory.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted, by the President, to the family of Mr. CONNER, and that the same be published in the papers of this city, and in those of New Orleans and Charlotte, North Carolina.

These resolutions were seconded by Henry Gourdin, Esq., and advocated by Wm. M. Lawton, Esq., in a few impressive words of tributary sorrow. The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the Chamber adjourned.

BANK OF CHARLESTON, S. C.,

January 14th, 1861.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of this Bank, held this morning, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Mr. HENRY W. CONNER, for many years one of the most active Directors of this Bank, and afterwards its President, departed this life on the afternoon of the 11th inst.

A thorough knowledge of his worth, growing out of an intercourse of many years, had impressed this Board with a profound respect and affection for him, and renders it proper now that they should give expression to the feelings of sorrow which this sad event has occasioned them, and place on the pages of their journals their sense of the loss which they and the Institution, in common with the community, have sustained by his death.

Mr. CONNER came into the Bank as a Director on its organization in 1835. In 1841, he became its President, and for nine years administered its affairs with an ability that not only promoted the welfare of the Bank, but the commerce of the city, which was greatly enlarged and extended through its operations. In 1850 he was called upon to assume, what were considered then, more important duties, as President of the South Carolina Railroad Company, over which institution he presided three years, and, in the discharge of his duties, as Director and President of both institutions, he exhibited always the

same energy and skill, and same firmness and honesty of purpose, which constituted so prominent a feature in his character, and in all his dealings, both in public and in private life.

In 1853 he resigned the Presidency of the Railroad, and, entering into business on his own account, he became again one of the best, and ever-ready counsellors of the Bank in periods of difficulty, although not connected with it in any official capacity. Associated, then, as he was with this Board, and knowing him as they knew him, it is their duty, as it is their privilege, to offer some public testimonial to his worth, for the lives of good and useful men are examples to the generation in which they live, as they are to those which follow, and testimonials to their memory are incentives to an emulation and a perpetuation of their virtues. Therefore,

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Bank of Charleston are deeply sensible of the loss which they and the community have sustained in the death of Mr. CONNER; that to them, individually, it is one of sincere sorrow, and they record this resolution on their journals, in profound respect and affection for his memory.

Resolved, That a copy of the above be sent to the family of Mr. CONNER, as an expression of the sympathies of the members of this Board in their bereavement.

Resolved, That the foregoing proceedings be published in the daily papers of this city, New Orleans, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

[FROM THE NEW ORLEANS COMMERCIAL BULLETIN.]

HENRY W. CONNER died in Charleston, South Carolina, on the 11th January, 1861.

The two communities of Charleston and New Orleans have to regret the loss of a member important to both. A half a century passed in active business placed him at the head of every movement, mercantile and financial, which has been inaugurated in the former place; whilst in the latter, a short residence of some five years was rapidly leading him to the same enviable pre-eminence. Gifted with the strongest traits of character, he was felt wherever he appeared, and he left his impress for good upon everything he touched. Self-taught and self-sustained, he ever stood the man among the men of the occasion. A powerful mind governed a strong will — and a genial heart directed both to the good of all around him — energy of thought and energy of action were directed by practical sense — hence success followed every effort, and public institutions and private individuals alike have reason to bless the healthful exercise of his influence. In early life, we find him a merchant, and his fitness for that vocation is evidenced by the success which followed him through the severest trials. Test him as a practical man, and his energy finds a glorious illustration in the results of the railroad system, not of South Carolina alone, but to some extent of Georgia also.

As a financier, he shows a brilliant record whilst wielding the three millions of the Bank of Charleston, rendering that institution a substitute for the old Bank of the United States as the fiscal agent of the South, both at home and abroad. As a private banker, he leaves a proud name, not in America alone, but throughout all Christendom—a name accredited wherever commerce carries a flag or sends an adventurer. To have done *this* was to have lived to some purpose; but he did more; as a patriot, he lived long enough to subscribe his name to the Ordinance of Secession of the State of South Carolina; this has made his name *historic*. And might he not have said, as the prophet of old: “Now let thy servant depart in peace.”

As a friend, we dare not permit ourselves to speak of him, lest truth might assume the appearance of exaggeration, but we may be indulged in the luxury of hoarding the remembrances of his acts of kindness, as treasures to be garnered in our hearts.

There is one body of men who will have a special tear to shed for him. Those who remember him as the presiding officer of the Hibernian Society of Carolina, will feel their hearts swell when they call to mind the genial glow which suffused itself over their meeting when he led them to deeds of charity, or in the mirth of the hour.

And thus, in all, either as a man of measures, or as a friend in deed, he was what few are, and what all should wish to be.

Tribute to the Memory OF Henry W. Conner.

At a meeting of the Hibernian Society, held on Tuesday evening, the 5th instant, the following preamble and resolutions were presented by M. P. O'Connor, Esq., and unanimously adopted:

An event has occurred since last we were assembled, which has cast a deep and pervading gloom over our Society. There is one missing from our genial circle whose loss cannot readily be supplied, whose place will not soon be re-filled. The void which the death of HENRY W. CONNER has produced will be felt so long as the memory of his virtues is cherished, and his merits are held in sacred remembrance. Distinguished as he was in the estimation of his fellow-citizens for his many fine traits of character; prominent as he stood in the various positions of public usefulness and honor which he so eminently filled, the sphere in which he seemed most to excel, was when he presided over the hospitalities of this Society. It was here, amongst us, when "wit flashed and fancy sparkled" in unison with the genial flow of his mirth, which endeared while it attracted all within its reach, that the best qualities of his head and of his heart were manifested. Not less than the flow of soul were the deep promptings of that kind, universal charity, which always characterized him. It found a vent whenever want appeared, or chill, hard-pressed industry sought for relief. Called to the head of

this Society by the unanimous voice and wish of confiding members, he suddenly drew every one to his embrace, and linked their affections with hooks of steel. In the office of President he continued with us until the autumn of 1856, when the avocations of his business compelled his absence elsewhere. It was only such a necessity that could sever the tie that bound him to us. During his administration, energy characterized his management, wisdom animated his councils, and prosperity crowned our advancement, while success vindicated his excellent worth. Never was he avoidably absent from his seat in this Hall. On festivals, guests clustered around him, and good cheer uniformly attended. We never can forget the pleasant mirth, the jocund glee which filled the atmosphere in which he sat, and perfumed the table over which he presided. All these associations, with much more that made him so beloved by all—his enterprise, his patriotism, and his devotion to the best interests of Charleston—have been cut short by his untimely end. While he lived, we loved him—though dead, we will not cease to honor him. Be it, therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of the lamented HENRY W. CONNER, the community has sustained a severe loss, this Society has been deprived of a valued and beloved member, and the social friendly circle been bereft of a warm-hearted and esteemed companion.

Resolved, That these proceedings be spread upon the Minutes of the Society, published in the daily papers of the city, and a copy transmitted to the family of the deceased.

[FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, IN SESSION, MARCH 26, 1861.]

Mr. Magrath.—Mr. President: on the journal of this Convention, there will be found a motion made by me, that leave of absence should be granted to HENRY W. CONNER, in consequence of sickness. That leave has been made perpetual, by an order paramount to this Convention. I propose to offer no eulogy upon Mr. CONNER. To us, to every man in the State of South Carolina, he was too well known to require comment from me. I content myself simply now with presenting to the consideration of this Convention a few resolutions, which, I trust, will be found to be truly expressive of the sense of this bereavement. I move you to the following effect:

Resolved, That this Convention receives with deep regret the intelligence of the death of HENRY W. CONNER, late one of its members.

Resolved, That in the enlightened enterprise and patriotic devotion of HENRY W. CONNER, the State of South Carolina has recognized the qualities which have contributed to advance her material prosperity and sustain her political independence.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention communicate these resolutions to the family of the deceased.



